AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

Claims:

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

10. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim [[8]] 15 and further including the step of visually monitoring the location of the distorted beam relative to the end face of the ferrule.

11. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10 and further including the step of moving the beam distorting member into a position to achieve the desired beam configuration for cleaving the fiber.

12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the beam distorting member has a central axis and it is moved to a position where the axis of the beam distorting member is offset from the axis of the beam incident thereon.

13. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10 and further including the step of moving the ferrule end face into a position where the flat portion of the beam is immediately adjacent the ferrule end face.

14. (Original) A system for producing optical fiber jumper cables having connectors at the ends thereof said connectors having ferrules holding fibers, said system comprising:

a first series of stages for cutting the cable to length, stripping the ends thereof, and inserting and affixing the fiber into the connector ferrule;

a laser cleaving stage for receiving the output of said first series of stages, said laser cleaving stage comprising:

a laser for generating a laser beam having a Gaussian energy distribution; and

a beam distorting member for producing a beam having a flat side substantially normal to the axis of the ferrule and focusing it to a point on the fiber adjacent to the end face of the ferrule;

a single step polishing stage for receiving the output of said cleaving stage and polishing the end of the fiber to be flat and flush with the ferrule end face, and

an inspection and testing stage for receiving the output of said single step polishing stage.

15. (New) A method of cleaving an optical fiber mounted in a ferrule having an end face from which the fiber projects comprising the steps of:

creating a laser beam having a Gaussian curve intensity distribution;

directing said beam through a beam distorting member to alter the intensity distribution thereof to crate a chisel shaped beam having a flat portion and an angled portion;

directing the beam to impinge on the optical fiber with the flat portion of the beam being closely adjacent the end face of the ferrule and normal of the axis thereof; and

polishing the end face of the cleared fiber to be flat and flush with the end face of the ferrule in a single polishing step.